REMARKS

Claim 11 has been amended. Claims 6 - 14 are currently pending in the present application.

In the Office Action, claims 11 - 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Additionally, in the Office Action, claims 6, 7, and 9 - 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schaverien US Patent No. 3,456,462. Also, in the Office Action, claims 8 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schaverien US Patent No. 3,456,462.

The Rejection of Claims 11 - 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph, as Failing to Comply With the Written Description Requirement

Claims 11 - 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement and specifically for the reason that claim 11 recites a limitation "the mechanics treatment being the first mechanics treatment to which the laundry has been subjected during the respective given laundry handling cycle" that is considered to lack a literal basis in the specification as originally filed. Although it is submitted that the objected-to limitation does, in fact, have a literal basis in the specification as filed, claim 11 has now been amended to delete the objected-to limitation: "the mechanics treatment being the first mechanics treatment to which the laundry has been subjected during the respective given laundry handling cycle." Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 11 - 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

The Present Invention

Claim 6 of the present invention recites a method for washing laundry in a process-controlled household washing machine comprising a wash liquid container for receiving laundry and wash liquid intended for washing the laundry. More specifically,

the method for washing laundry is for use in a process-controlled household washing machine wherein a heating device and a temperature sensor are attached, wherein water for washing is poured into the wash liquid container during a filling phase and the temperature sensor delivers signals for the respective temperature of the water or the wash liquid to a process control system during a washing phase and, as well, the process control system derives commands for controlling the heating device for heating the wash liquid from the temperature signals. The inventive method for washing laundry recited in claim 6 of the present invention is for use in a process-controlled household washing machine wherein a typical washing process runs at a temperature of the water or the wash liquid at the level of a standard value with a heating phase which begins with switching on the heating device, a mechanics phase during which mechanics are introduced as a result of rotations of the wash liquid container, and a post-wash phase without adding further heat energy, and lasts for a defined constant time from the beginning of switching on the heating device until the end of the post-wash phase. In accordance with the inventive method for washing laundry recited in claim 6 of the present invention, the temperature of the water or the wash liquid is determined at or after the end of the filling with water. In the event of a determined temperature of less than a standard value for the amount of water which has freshly run into the wash liquid container before the beginning of the washing process, the heating device is switched on and, further, the beginning of the washing process is delayed by a defined time interval ($t_{OK} - t_{0S}$) but from there on lasts the same time as the typical washing process. As further recited in claim 6 of the present invention, during the time interval delay ($t_{OK} - t_{0S}$), the wash liquid container is not subjected to mechanics phase during which mechanics are introduced as a result of rotations of the wash liquid container.

The method of the present invention as exemplarily recited in claim 6 provides the advantage that uniformly good washing results can be obtained since one can then always operate the washing phase for the same desired time duration of the so-called Sinnersch cycle (which prescribes a targeted sum for the factors of temperature, time, mechanics, and chemistry).

The Rejection of Claims 6, 7, and 9 - 13 As Being Anticipated by Schaverien US Patent No. 3,456,4626 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

With respect to the rejection of claims 6, 7, and 9 - 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schaverien US Patent No. 3,456,462, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Schaverien US Patent No. 3,456,462 discloses a method for washing clothes in a metal sink 1 having a cascade inlet 14, an electric water heater 10, an electric motor 5, and an agitator 3 in the form of a wheel provided with radial spokes 4 which act as blades to agitate the water in the metal sink 1. The method for washing clothes in the metal sink 1 comprises opening the cascade inlet 14 such that water fills into the metal sink 1, closing the hot cascade inlet 14 when water filled into the metal sink 1 has reached a pre-set level, and turning on the electric water heater 10 to bring water in the metal sink 1 up to a selected desired temperature such as, e.g., "very hot," "hot", or "warm." The method for washing clothes in the metal sink 1 further comprises the next following steps of injecting detergent, starting the electric motor 5 and the agitator 3 for five minutes, and then stopping the electric motor 5 and opening an outlet valve long enough to empty the metal sink 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that Schaverien '462 does not anticipate the laundry washing method of the present application as recited in claims 6, 7, and 9 - 13 of the present application. As recited, for example, in claim 6 of the present application, the inventive method for washing laundry is for use in a process-controlled household washing machine wherein a typical washing process runs at a temperature of the water or the wash liquid at the level of a standard value with a heating phase which begins with switching on the heating device, a mechanics phase during which mechanics are introduced as a result of rotations of the wash liquid container, and a post-wash phase without adding further heat energy, and lasts for a defined constant time from the beginning of switching on the heating device until the end of the post-wash phase. This "typical wash process" is specifically configured to achieve the benefits of the so-called Sinnersch cycle, which permits uniformly good washing results to be obtained if the washing phase is always operated for the same desired time duration. Thus, this

"typical wash process" as set forth in claim 6 of the present application is operated at a uniform desired time duration (consistent with the Sinnersch cycle) in that the "heating phase", the "mechanics phase", and the "post-wash phase" "lasts for a defined constant time from the beginning of switching on the heating device until the end of the post-wash phase."

As noted, claim 6 of the present application recites that the typical washing process runs at a temperature of the water or the wash liquid at the level of a "standard value." The inventive method for washing laundry additionally provides an approach by which this temperature of the water or the wash liquid at the level of a "standard value" is achieved in the event of a determined temperature of less than a standard value for the amount of water which has freshly run into the wash liquid container before the beginning of the washing process. Namely, as set forth in claim 6, in such an event, the heating device is switched on and, further, the beginning of the washing process is delayed by a defined time interval. Turning now to the clothes washing method disclosed in Schaverien '462, it can be seen that the water that has been filled into the metal sink 1 is brought up to a selected desired temperature, such as, e.g., "very hot," "hot", or "warm", before several other steps commence - i.e., before the injection of detergent, the operation of the agitator 3, and the draining of the metal sink 1 in advance of a rinse step. However, the clothes washing method disclosed in Schaverien '462 does not comprise, and Schaverien '462 does not hint at the desirability of, performing a washing process to achieve the benefits of a Sinnersch cycle - which, as noted, prescribes a targeted sum for the factors of temperature, time, mechanics, and chemistry. As an example, Schaverien '462 does not teach or disclose providing any thermal input into the water, detergent, and clothes mixture that could be considered the same or equivalent as the "heating phase" of the "typical wash process" set forth in claim 6 of the present application. As exemplarily disclosed in the present application, it may be selected that the standard value S of the temperature of the incoming water is to be 15° C (see Page 5, lines 17 - 19, of the present application). If, then, for example, considerably cooler water (e.g., only 6° C) flows in at the beginning of a washing program (see Page 6, lines 20 -21, of the present application), a delay phase D is performed during which the washing solution is heated until the temperature of the

incoming water now reaches the standard value S of 15° C. At the end of the delay phase D, the washing process W begins and, as seen in Figure 2 of the present application, a thermal input is provided during this washing process W so as to raise the temperature of the washing solution from the standard value S of 15° C (at the time of the end of the delay phase D - i.e., shortly after the time t_{0K}) to a higher temperature value of 60° C (reached at time t_{1K}). In contrast, in the clothes washing method disclosed in Schaverien '462, no thermal input is provided during any of the steps of the injection of detergent, the operation of the agitator 3, and the draining of the metal sink 1 in advance of a rinse step, and Schaverien '462 does not show any recognition of the desirability of providing such a thermal input during a washing process to achieve the benefits of a Sinnersch cycle having a targeted sum for the factors of temperature, time, mechanics, and chemistry.

Thus, claims 6, 7, and 9 - 13 are not anticipated by Schaverien '462 and it is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 6, 7, and 9 - 13 be withdrawn.

The Rejection of Claims 8 and 14 As Being Unpatentable Over Schaverien US Patent No. 3,456,462 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

With respect to the rejection of claims 8 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schaverien US Patent No. 3,456,462, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendment of claim 11 and the following comments.

Claim 8, which depends ultimately from claim 6, and claim 14, which depends ultimately from claim 11, each recite the feature that the standard value (of the incoming water) lies in the range of 10°C to 15°C. The Office Action notes that Schaverien '462 is silent as to the standard temperature of the water but asserts that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the temperature of cold or tap water would fall in the range of 10°C to 15°C.

Applicants respectfully submit that, even if it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the temperature of cold

or tap water would fall in the range of 10°C to 15°C, Schaverien '462 does not render obvious the subject matter of claims 8 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). As noted, the clothes washing method disclosed in Schaverien '462 does not comprise, and Schaverien '462 does not hint at the desirability of, performing a washing process to achieve the benefits of a Sinnersch cycle which prescribes a targeted sum for the factors of temperature, time, mechanics, and chemistry. Thus, even if one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made were taught that the temperature of cold or tap water should fall in the range of 10°C to 15°C, Schaverien '462 provides no guidance with respect to performing a washing process as recited in independent claims 6 and 11 from which claims 8 and 14 respectively ultimately depend. Thus, claims 8 and 14 are not rendered obvious by Schaverien '462 and it is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 8 and 14 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of claims 6 - 14 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

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